

Our Lady of Victory Church

1607 Birch Street, Whitehorse YT, Y1A 3X1 Ph: 867-633-2647

Bishop: Most Reverend Héctor Vila, DD; **Pastor:** Fr. Marc Lalonde

Reconciliation: 30 minutes before Mass.

Mass Times: 1st Mass of Sunday: Saturday, 7.00 pm. Sunday, 10.00 am. Weekdays **except Wed**, 6.00 pm
Monday: Perpetual Novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Rosary, and Adoration; after Mass
Beginning on **May 1, 2019**, there will be no 6.00 pm Wednesday Mass at OLV.

Our Lady of Victory parish is part of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Whitehorse, Canada

OLOV Parish Council:

President: Fr. Marc, **Chair:** Joe Hanrath, **Secretary:** Carol Vanderbyl, **Treasurer:** vacant,

Council Members: Frank Hanrath, Pat Banks

Meetings will now be 1st Monday @ 2.30 pm. **Next meeting:** June 3rd.

Finance Committee: Fr. Marc Lalonde, Pat Banks, vacant

Music: Saturday, Theresa Han; Sunday, Pauline Paton; **Liturgy:** Pat Banks; **Food Bank:** Kristie Kanary

Knights of Columbus: meetings are 7.00 pm, 2nd Wed CYO Hall. Contact Domagoj Pehar, 332-0835

Catholic Women's League: meetings 7.00 pm, 2nd Tues, CYO Hall. Contact Carol Vanderbyl, 633-5348

Sacred Heart Edge Youth Group (Youth on Fire): Fridays from 7:00 to 8:30pm in the CKES Gym

May 12, 2019: 4th Sunday of Easter



**“My
sheep
hear my
voice. I
know
them,
and they
will
follow
me.”**

John 10.27

The Good Shepherd. Artist: Robert Atkinson Fox (1860-1935)

Source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/waitingforthword/5691333081>

Fr. Roger Karban's essay for May 12th, 2019: Fourth Sunday of Easter

[Acts 13:14, 43-52; Revelation 7:9, 14b-17; John 10:27-30](#)

One of the reasons Luke wrote Acts is found in today's first reading. Some early Jewish critics of Christianity were claiming that from the beginning Jesus of Nazareth was planning to destroy Judaism by opening the reform he preached to non-Jews. According to them, the Gentile converts multiplying in Christianity during Luke's day and age weren't accidental. The whole process was part of the Capernaum carpenter's master plan from day one.

Luke responds, "No way!" The Gentiles who were accepting the risen Jesus' faith were a total surprise. If non-Jews were becoming other Christs it was only because many of those who were originally invited to experience Jesus' dying and rising personally rejected the invitation.

Luke shares his read on this unexpected situation in today's first reading. Paul and Barnabas, as good Jews, initially bring the message of Jesus' death and resurrection to their fellow Jews in the Antioch synagogue. Only after those worshipers contradict what the pair proclaim with "violent abuse," do the two state the evangelist's thesis: "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first, but since you reject it and condemn yourselves as unworthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles."

No secret plan existed to evangelize Gentiles. Paul and his co-evangelizers were forced to develop one out of necessity when the unexpected happened. Though Jewish Christians were still obligated to keep the 613 Mosaic laws along with imitating the risen Jesus, Gentile Christians simply concentrated on the latter.

The greatest 20th century scholar of the Christian Scriptures – Rudolph Bultmann - once observed, "Eventually the preacher became the preached." During his earthy ministry, Jesus of Nazareth preached a reform of Judaism. After his death and resurrection, he/she became the reform he had once preached. Nowhere is this change clearer than in today's famous gospel pericope about Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

Most probably written in the mid-90s, this Johannine passage speaks about Jesus shepherding his people. It isn't the first time the gospel Jesus lists the characteristics of a good shepherd. He does so a generation or two before in both Matthew and Luke. But in those prior passages, he never identifies with the shepherd. He simply speaks about God – as a shepherd – wasting lots of time and effort going after "lost" sheep. Only at the end of the first Christian century does someone eventually identify the risen Jesus as such a shepherd. The preacher has finally become the preached.

Of course, once people no longer have the "Jewishness" of their faith to fall back on, they have no choice but to concentrate completely on the Christ, as does the author of Revelation. His theology closely parallels John: "The Lamb . . . will shepherd them and lead them to springs of life-giving water . . ." If you're not following the risen Jesus, you'll end up dying of thirst.

The basic problem for non-Jewish Christians is that those who break concentration on the risen Jesus among them are going to have terrific difficulties accomplishing the reform he preached. I presume that was the main reason celebrations of the Eucharist were essential for the earliest Christians. They simply couldn't be who they were expected to be without creating frequent occasions to give themselves to one another.

It's more than a shame that the biblical Breaking of Bread eventually developed into just a series of prayers and rituals by which a person gains sufficient graces to one day get into heaven. None of our Christian sacred authors could have foreseen that development.

Church historians tell us reform of the church must begin with reform of the Eucharist. Considering the recent translation foisted on us by Rome, we've got a long way to go.

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"If we suffer with Him, we shall also reign with Him.' Do not let us be incredulous about this promised reward nor slow in trying to gain it, for after a brief time of toil, we shall enjoy eternal happiness." St. John of Avila, *Finding Confidence in Times of Trial*

Fr. Joe's homily for the Fourth Sunday of Easter: How to Do Your Laundry

I want to start today by speaking about a task that all of us have to learn how to do, at least, all of us who are not totally spoiled need to learn how to do. The task is doing the laundry. Unless our Moms taught us when we were really little, the chances are good that we learned how to do the laundry the hard way. Probably at one time or another all of us had whites that ended up pink, or grey or the traces of some other color that dominated the load. That's when we learned that it is not a good thing to wash your whites with your colors.

Evidently, that rule doesn't hold in God's washing machines. In the vision from the *Book of Revelations*, our second reading, people are seen who had just done their laundry. They are wearing robes that are sparkling white. The robes represent their baptismal garments. But the reading says that they washed their robes in the Blood of the Lamb. It is all symbolic. They carry palm branches which is the symbol of martyrs. The people in the vision are those who died for the Lord.

In today's Gospel reading the Lord tells us that his sheep will never perish. He says, "No one can take them out of my hand." When we study the history of Christianity, we learn about thousands and thousands of people who were persecuted for their faith, people who had everything taken from them, but no one could take God's life from them. The martyrs, those who gave witness to Christ with their lives, will never die.

We are all also aware of the thousands who are suffering this present day because they are Christians. God's love for them is strong. They may be assaulted or even killed, but they will never die. They have affirmed their baptism with their testimony to Christ. They have washed their baptismal garments in the Blood of the Lamb.

The first reading presents Paul and Barnabas being persecuted for the faith. They were not put to death. That would happen later in both of their lives. At the stage of their Christian lives presented in today's Gospel, Paul and Barnabas are mocked by their own people, Jewish people, as they presented the faith in Antioch in Pisidia. This was not the Antioch in Syria that our patron, St. Ignatius, was from, but a city right in the middle of present day Turkey. Paul and Barnabas were run out of the city, symbolically shaking the town's dust off their feet as Jesus instructed disciples who are rejected to do in *Luke 9:5* and parallel passages.

I do not know whether any of us here will be put to death for our faith. I think all of us would be willing to die for Christ. Realistically, the chances of that happening are slim, unless of course, some of us choose to care for people in those countries where Christianity is persecuted. So, it is easy for us to say, "I would die for Christ." But are we willing to be persecuted for him?

That is the question we have to ask ourselves when we are called upon to take a stand against popular but immoral positions. Certainly abortion is the foremost of these, but there are other positions demanding that we stand up for Christ and accept persecution from the pseudo intelligentsia around us. For example, we need to take a stand against the bigotry and hatred when and if it is used by politicians who appeal to people's basest instincts. I've recently been blasted for doing exactly that, but it makes no difference. I have to proclaim the gospel and affirm that a Christian cannot give in to hatred, especially that which might be lurking within the recesses of his or her mind. Nor can a Christian close his or her eyes and ears to those who promote hatred. If in some people's minds relating the Gospel to the current times is, to use the attacker's words, "spewing a political position," then we need to accept persecution and promote Christianity.

Sometimes we have to accept persecution from those within our own families or circle of friends when they expect us to join them in affirming popular immorality. Many times people will say that it is so wonderful that two people have found each other and are now living together, even though they will not marry for social security reasons for the elderly or for commitment reasons among the young. When we say, "I can't accept that," we will be attacked, persecuted, or at least excluded, but we cannot turn from the truth of the Lord.

There are times that we suffer simply for doing what we need to do. Many of you are or have been care-givers. Some for your husbands or wives, some for your parents, and some for a chronically ill child. You have been pushed beyond your comfort zone so many times that you forgot what a normal event-less day is like. I'm sure you could find ways to turn from your responsibilities, but your love won't let you. Your love is God's love, sacrificial love.

All good parents, you folks, love their children sacrificially. You cannot count the times that you have gotten up in the middle of the night to care for a child. It is what you do. Your day revolves around your children's needs, not your wants. Sometimes you are exhausted, but always you are loving. You are also loved by your children in their own way and loved by your God who sees how well you love Him through your children. That doesn't make your life easy.

If Christianity were easy, the Lord would never have said, "Take up your cross and follow me."

The Lord says to us today: "Use my laundry service. Wash your robes white in my blood. Stand up for me, care for my children, and know that I will always care for you. Don't be afraid. You will not perish. You are mine."

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In Memory of: Jean Vanier – a man who made the Gospel come alive

Renowned Catholic philosopher, writer and humanist Jean Vanier, founder of two international organizations for people with intellectual disabilities, L'Arche and Faith and Light, has died from thyroid cancer in the Maison Médicale Jeanne Garnier in Paris, at the age of 90.

In his last message, a few days ago, Jean said: I am deeply peaceful and trustful. I'm not sure what the future will be but God is good and whatever happens it will be the best. I am happy and give thanks for everything. My deepest love to each one of you.

The son of a former Governor General of Canada, Vanier served during World War II with the Royal Navy and then with the Royal Canadian Navy. In 1950, he left the navy to study philosophy and theology, and began to teach.

In 1964, the ex-naval officer, was invited to Trosly to visit an asylum for men with mental handicaps. "It was a horrific place," he says, "full of screaming and violence; and yet it filled me with a sense of wonderment. I sensed in these men a great cry – 'Do you love me?', 'Will you come back?'" He visited other asylums, equally dismal, and then decided to act. Having bought a tumbledown cottage in Trosly, he invited two men with handicaps – Raphaël Simi and Philippe Seux – to leave their asylum and live with him. He called their home L'Arche, "the ark".

"There was no huge idea, no intention to change the world." He simply wanted to ease the suffering of two men. But, as he shared his life with Raphaël and Philippe, he gradually discovered that he was being transformed by them. "God has chosen the weak and the foolish," he says, rephrasing St Paul, "to confound those caught up in their heads." Raphaël and Philippe were enabling him to live from his heart, to escape "the tyranny of normality", to laugh like a child. They were, he says, "teachers of tenderness". Others came to join him, the community grew.

In 1968 the first L'Arche community in Canada opened. Today there are 143 L'Arche communities in 35 countries, from Zimbabwe to Palestine, Uganda to the UK. In each one, "normal" people live as assistants to people with handicaps. While Vanier is a devout Catholic, L'Arche welcomes people of all religions and none: "My feet are rooted in my faith, but my arms are wide open," Vanier says. "What is important is not necessarily a belief in God, but a capacity to love people as they are. You can not believe in God, but still believe in relationship."

"People who are old," he has written, "and offer themselves to God, can become lightning conductors of grace."

"When you die, you fall asleep. And you wake up, and there's a very gentle peace. You feel well. And then you discover the face of God coming through that 'wellness'. Of course, we are outside time, so it's not sequential. Seeing Jesus' face, we suddenly have a feeling of having hurt him – we realise we could have done much better; we've done wrong. We are not being judged; we judge ourselves. But then comes the realisation that we are loved just as we are, in our darkness. So there's a meeting with God, who loves us in our poverty – and this we can hardly believe. That meeting brings an immense desire to be closer. That desire becomes a place of desire – I think of Purgatory as "the place of desire" – and it's painful. When you have desire and not the object of desire, it's very painful. But then the desire augments, and consequently the pain augments, until there is a moment of explosion, and then we're in communion with God."

"I can't speak about hell, but wasn't it John Paul II who said that, even if hell exists, it may be empty?"

"When we die, it's not a question of what we've done, but of how we've loved."

To those in great pain who want help in ending their lives - "I don't know what I'd say. But perhaps somewhere they haven't really been helped. All I know is that in my experience in L'Arche – and I can only talk from experience – people who are terribly depressed and in great pain are transformed when they know they are really loved."

"What I love about the Good Samaritan, is that he didn't waste time weighing up the pros and cons, he just did something."

Jean's awards include the French Legion of Honour, Companion of the Order of Canada, the Rabbi Gunther Plaut Humanitarian Award 2001, the International Paul VI Award, and the Templeton Prize. He was furthermore been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Jean Vanier, and those who came to share his vision, learnt two important truths in the early years, which remain at the heart of L'Arche today. People with learning disabilities have a great deal to contribute to society and, by living in intentional community with people with and without learning disabilities - living with diversity and difference - we open ourselves up to be challenged and to grow.

Jean Vanier's books include *Life's Great Questions*, *Becoming Human*, *Community and Growth*, *Befriending the Stranger* and *From Brokenness to Community*.

Words and wisdom from Jean Vanier

L'Arche does not attempt to change the world, but simply to do little things with love.

"Community is not for producing things outside of itself, it is not a gathering of people struggling to win a cause. It is a place of communion where people care for others, and are cared for by others, a place where they become vulnerable to one another."

"Try and find somebody who is lonely. And when you go to see them, they will see you as the messiah. Go and visit a little old lady who has no friends or family. Bring her flowers. People say, 'but that's nothing'. It is nothing – but it's also everything. It always begins with small little things. It all began in Bethlehem. That was pretty small."

"We are not called by God to do extraordinary things, but to do ordinary things with extraordinary love."

"Every child, every person needs to know that they are a source of joy; every child, every person, needs to be celebrated. Only when all of our weaknesses are accepted as part of our humanity can our negative, broken self-images be transformed." *Becoming Human*

"When we love and respect people, revealing to them their value, they can begin to come out from behind the walls that protect them." *Finding Peace*

"Growth begins when we start to accept our own weakness"

"All of us have a secret desire to be seen as saints, heroes, martyrs. We are afraid to be children, to be ourselves." *Community And Growth*

"But let us not put our sights too high. We do not have to be saviours of the world! We are simply human beings, enfolded in weakness and in hope, called together to change our world one heart at a time." *Becoming Human*

"True peace can rarely be imposed from the outside; it must be born within and between communities through meetings and dialogue and then carried outward." *Finding peace*

"It is only when we stand up, with all our failings and sufferings, and try to support others rather than withdraw into ourselves, that we can fully live the life of community." *Community and growth*

"Wisdom is something that comes, little by little, through a lot of listening."

"A society which discards those who are weak and non-productive risks exaggerating the development of reason, organisation, aggression and the desire to dominate. It becomes a society without a heart, without kindness - a rational and sad society, lacking celebration, divided within itself and given to competition, rivalry and, finally, violence." *Man and Woman, God Made Them*

"I am struck by how sharing our weakness and difficulties is more nourishing to others than sharing our qualities and successes." *Community and growth*

"Love is an act of endless forgiveness"

"'Going home' is a journey to the heart of who we are, a place where we can be ourselves and welcome the reality of our beauty and our pain. From this acceptance of ourselves, we can accept others as they are and we can see our common humanity."

"Prayer is like a secret garden made up of silence and rest and inwardness. But there are a thousand and one doors into this garden and we all have to find ours" *Community and growth*

"The fundamental principle of peace is a belief that each person is important. Why is the gap between the rich and the poor, the powerful and the powerless growing? There can be no peace unless we can become aware of where this growing gap comes from".

"...Individualistic material progress and the desire to gain prestige by coming out on top have taken over from the sense of fellowship, compassion and community. Now people live more or less on their own in a small house, jealously guarding their goods and planning to acquire more, with a notice on the gate that says, 'Beware of the Dog.'"

"Every human being is a mixture of light and darkness, trust and fear, love and hate." *Seeing Beyond Depression*



"I remember that throughout history the way of truth and love has always won. There have been tyrants and murderers and for a time they can seem invincible. But in the end they always fall. Think of it always...whenever you are in doubt that that is God's way - the way the world is meant to be. Think of that and then try to do His way."

"The belly laugh is the best way to evacuate anguish."

"Envy comes from people's ignorance of, or lack of belief in, their own gifts."

"I'm just somebody who was born ninety years ago and will die in a few years time and then everybody will have forgotten me. This is reality. We're all here, but we are just local people, passengers in a journey. We get into the train, we get out of the train, the train goes on." *Rules for Life to Become More Human*

Pope issues new norms for reporting, investigating clergy abuse

New norms for the whole Catholic Church against those who abuse or cover up will come into effect June 1
La Croix International staff, Vatican City, May 9, 2019

Read more at: https://international.la-croix.com/news/pope-issues-new-norms-for-reporting-investigating-clergy-abuse/10068?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=e-mail&utm_content=10-05-2019&utm_campaign=newsletter_crx_lci&PMID=85b0ebb1ffeca0fedf078ea60e8e375a

Pope Francis speaks on Jean Vanier, St Theresa and Women Deacons

Pope Francis told reporters May 7 he had been kept informed about **Jean Vanier's** failing health and had phoned him a week before his death.

"He listened to me, but he could barely speak. I wanted to express my gratitude for his witness," Pope Francis said May 7, the day Vanier died in Paris.

"He was a man who was able to read the Christian call in the mystery of death, of the cross, of illness, the mystery of those who are despised and discarded," the pope said.

But, also, Pope Francis said, Vanier stood up for those "who risk being condemned to death even before being born."

"Simply put, I want to thank him and thank God for having given us this man with such a great witness," the pope said.

Pope Francis went to the tiny Balkan nation of North Macedonia to pay tribute to a tiny saint who accomplished big things: **St. Teresa of Kolkata**.

Mother Teresa was born Agnes Gaxhe Bojaxhiu to Albanian parents in Skopje Aug. 26, 1910, so after paying the obligatory formal visit to North Macedonia's president, Pope Francis went May 7 to the memorial and museum built on the site of the church where she was baptised. The church was later destroyed in an earthquake.

"Moved by the love of God," the pope told the president, Mother Teresa "made love of neighbour the supreme law of her life."

At the memorial, Pope Francis did not speak about the saintly founder of the Missionaries of Charity, but after praying silently before her relics, he praised God for the gift of her life and prayed for her intercession for North Macedonia.

Among the guests present at the memorial were dozens of Missionaries of Charity, about 100 of the people they serve in Skopje, and two of Mother Teresa's cousins, the Vatican said.

Celebrating Mass in the nearby Macedonia Square on a brisk spring morning, Pope Francis drew people's attention to human hungers -- the hunger for bread, but also the hunger for truth, for God and for love. "How well Mother Teresa knew all this and desired to build her life on the twin pillars of Jesus incarnate in the Eucharist and Jesus incarnate in the poor," he said. "Love received and love given" marked her journey from Skopje to India and kept her going.

Too many people, he said, "have become accustomed to eating the stale bread of disinformation," and so they end up being prisoners of a worldview that makes them either indifferent to others or downright hostile.

Christians must never be afraid to tell God that they are hungry "for an experience of fraternity in which indifference, disparagement and contempt will not fill our tables or take pride of place in our homes," he said. "We are hungry, Lord, for encounters where your word can raise hope, awaken tenderness and sensitise the heart by opening paths of transformation and conversion."

The commission Pope Francis appointed to study the history and identity of **women deacons**, in August 2013, did not reach a unanimous conclusion about whether deaconesses in the early church were "ordained" or formally "blessed," the pope said.

"What is fundamental is that there was no certainty that there was an ordination with the same form and same aim as the ordination of men," the pope told reporters flying with him from North Macedonia to Rome May 7.

After the six men and six women scholars on the commission finished their work, he said, there was "some agreement," but not on the crucial question of whether women were ordained or solemnly blessed like abbesses are.

"Some say there are doubts. Well, then, let's study some more. I don't have a problem with that."

Read more at: <https://www.thetablet.co.uk/news/11667/pope-says-study-on-women-deacons-was-inconclusive>

and: <https://catholicherald.co.uk/commentandblogs/2019/05/08/has-pope-francis-just-ruled-out-women-deacons/>

Pope's Prayer Intention for May: The Church in Africa, a Seed of Unity

That the Church in Africa, through the commitment of its members, may be the seed of unity among her peoples and a sign of hope for this continent.

Did You Know? GUIDELINES FOR THE MINISTRY OF READER #5

Pronunciation and enunciation are important so preparation of the text you are to read is essential. Regardless of your assigned reading, pre-read all of the Sunday scripture, beginning with the Gospel. This will aid you in understanding your designated part and enable you to proclaim with enthusiasm. If you are unsure of the pronunciation of a word, ask someone. A droning monologue is not inspiring to listeners so learn where to place emphasis and the importance of enunciation. A useful web site is:

<http://lectorprep.org/index.html>

Local News

Your Help is Asked For:

Involvement enhances a sense of belonging, with that in mind we are asking for help with the following:

Financial: One or two people to spare an average of 30 minutes per week- can't add, no worries we have calculators!

Cleaning: Our domestic saint is sometimes busy elsewhere so, we are asking for one or two people who would help by working with her to ensure that, at least the carpet is vacuumed. Many hands make light work.

Ironing: Not everything is permanent press so, someone to offer to launder and iron our altar linens would be a help.

Volunteers may contact Fr. Marc or respond to: olov.whitehorse@gmail.com

- **Taize Service**, non-denominational: Whitehorse United Church; Sunday May 26, 7:30 pm. Following a summer break, the next one will be in Sept. www.taize.fr
- **Hospice Yukon** - Monday evenings **May 13, 27 & June 3; 6:30 - 8:00 pm**: Weekly walking group for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. To register, please contact Hospice Yukon: 667-7429
- **OLV Food of the Month for Whitehorse Food Bank**. The **May** selection is **Soda Crackers**. **Thank you all**.
- A big **Thank You** to those who clean our church. Please be considerate of them. It is that muddy time of year again so please wipe your feet on the porch carpet before entering the church.
- **Baptismal and other Sacramental Preparation, or Home Visits** for parishioners who would like Fr. Marc to stop by for communion, a short visit or house blessing: Please call Fr. Marc at 633-2647

Short Video to Watch:

<https://catholicproductions.com/blogs/mass-readings-explained-year-c/4th-sunday-in-easter-year-c>

7.44 minute excerpt from Brant Pitre's weekly explanation of the upcoming Sunday scripture readings

It is time to sort stuff again, upcoming yard & garage sales for worthy causes.

Haines Junction - annual **Thrift Shop clearance sale May 23,24,25, \$2.00 a bag** sale. Basement of Anglican church. Everything is pre screened and unsuitable items discarded.

Knights of Columbus are holding their annual yard sale on **May 25, 2019 from 8am-12pm** at the **Sacred Heart Cathedral** parking lot. All proceeds go to K of C charity. For more info call Dom at [332-0835](tel:332-0835).

WUC Yard Sale - June 8th. We expect that those who have items to sell will come to the church that day and sell them, and take away what doesn't sell. Far less work for everyone. All proceeds go to WUC, but it will be a car trunk sale with **sellers responsible for sale & clean up of their own items.**

Don't forget, if you plan on a sale of your own, OLV has tables you may borrow. No charge, but donations appreciated.



My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

- JOHN 10:27 NIV